GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1997
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
AMENDMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 1986
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the practice of putting the label of maximum price to be charged by the manufacturers on their products had worked against consumer` interests because the retailers are using it as the minimum price of selling the product which is nothing but cheating and anti- consumer practice; and

(b) if so, the actions proposed by the Government to curb such anti-consumer practice?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a)& (b): The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require declaration of retail sale price of the package in the form `Maximum retail price....inclusive of all taxes` (MRP).The declaration of MRPon the package has to be made by the manufacturer or packer of the commodity. The Rules have penal provisions which prevent retail dealers from selling the packaged commodity at a price higher than the declared MRP. However, the actual sale price may be less than MRP depending on various factors such as transportation involved, local taxes, competition etc.